

LENDING THE INDIANS.

EFFECT OF THE SHOW BUSINESS ON THE RED MAN.

Government Agents Strongly Condemn the Practice. It Makes the Men Worthless Vagabonds. Commissioner Morgan Deeply Interested.

As announced in THE CRITIC a few days ago, F. G. Whitney, proprietor of "Wild America," the show which is headed by Dr. Carver, is in the city to negotiate with the Department of the Interior for a new supply of Indians. Mr. Whitney has not yet made any formal application to the Department, but he does so it is highly probable that his request will be refused.

A critic reporter called upon General Morgan, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, this evening, for the purpose of ascertaining what had been the effect upon the various tribes of allowing members from them to travel with shows of the "Wild West" type. He found that the result, they say, is to make them disinclined to work, and when they return home they exercise a very demoralizing effect upon their tribes by introducing among them the vices and diseases they come in contact with.

The following opinions are taken at random from a very large number of letters received on this subject from the various Indian agents:

John Blair, U. S. Indian Agent of the Potomac and Great Nemata Agency, Kansas, is opposed to permitting Indians to connect themselves with shows. He says: "I understand that the managers of these shows expect to be financially benefited by exhibitions of romantic barbarism, in which the reverberating whoop of the Indian, pretended stage robbery, daring feats of horsemanship, indiscriminate slaughter and fantastic dressing are all involved. The Indian has been educated to act in most of these parts for centuries, and he should now be taught useful, practical lessons of real life, such as agriculture, stock raising, and the like, which will make him a self-sustaining, useful citizen."

The only show that an Indian should be connected with or take part in," writes John W. Crenshaw of the "Lodgepole Pine," is the State Fair, where he can exhibit his farm produce and well-kept stock on the same footing as the white man, where the showing would be creditable to the Indian and to the Department. Henry George of the Colorado River Agency thinks it is not "good policy for the Government to encourage such shows, in fact, I doubt the propriety of the Government permitting such exhibitions, participated in, in whole or in part, by Indians who are influenced to leave their homes for such purposes. I, because they are carried over the country, exhibited in this uncivilized fashion and encouraged in their barbarous habits by the applause of the people who witness them. 2, because such exhibitions do not encourage the Indians in habits of industry, on the contrary, it is indirectly a reward to the Indians to continue their uncivilized custom of living. 3, because Indians thus engaged could not have good influence on their return to their tribes. It would be something like the effect of sensational yarns about robbers in the minds of boys."

D. P. Shuler of the White Earth Agency reports that fourteen Indians, according to his account, are traveling with the "Wild West" show, and a number of others have been. He says: "These Indians who have been with these shows are, as a rule, worthless vagabonds, and the only thing that has seemed to be an effort to live in idleness and to gain a living by trading in whisky. Their influence is generally bad on those with whom they associate. I am sure that the Government should take prompt measures to suppress these shows and have the Indians returned to their reservations. The medical officer at the same agency has also expressed his opinion that the Indians who have returned, contracted with these shows, are a principal cause of the increase of blood in the Indian population. He says: "The fact of the Government allowing an arrangement whereby an Indian is employed by any circus company is simply pernicious, for the following reasons: The character of those exhibitions is a degradation in the nature of blood in the Indian population. He sees nothing but vice of the lowest order, for there is no other example for him, and he returns to his own knowledge and his disease broadcast throughout his tribe."

While the Department has not yet issued any order forbidding Indians to absent themselves from their reservations in order to travel with shows, it is highly probable that, in view of the strong expressions of opinion on the subject from the men who are in the best position to judge of the effects of the practice, it will be discontinued.

THE AMERICAN BIRD.

He Whips Two Dogs and Takes Their Meat Away.

On Saturday a bad eagle attacked a dog on the farm on which Mr. Wallace Fields resides, near Derwood, and took from it a piece of fresh beef. Mr. Fields' attention was called to his dog, which was about one hundred yards from the dwelling, by its piteous howlings and advanced in that direction. Running toward the house was the dog with the piece of beef in his mouth and the eagle apparently riding on the dog's back and billing his head until the blood was profusely flowing.

The dog dropped the meat and the eagle seized it, skinning the earth in its flight. The dog turned on the eagle again and with another dog that had come to his assistance recovered the meat. The eagle seemed ravenous in

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